

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 996

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Cybill Shepherd.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in paying tribute to a multi-talented artist who proudly serves as a stalwart advocate and international goodwill ambassador for her native Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Cybill Shepherd, native Memphian and graduate of its East High School, has earned the respect of her peers and accolades from critics and the public alike as an actress, musician, author, producer, and model during her long and varied career in television, film, music, and the stage; and

WHEREAS, from Model of the Year honors as a teenager to her current independent film, *Rose*, Cybill Shepherd has established herself as an icon for an entire generation; and

WHEREAS, appearing on the covers of *Life*, *Vogue*, *Glamour*, and *People* as a model, Ms. Shepherd made her film debut in 1971 in the highly acclaimed film *The Last Picture Show*, which garnered her a Golden Globe nomination for Most Promising Newcomer; this much-deserved acclaim led to starring roles in major motion pictures *The Heartbreak Kid*, *Daisy Miller*, *Taxi Driver*, *Chances Are*, and *Texasville* and numerous independent features, including *Listen to Your Heart*, *Regrets of White Camellias*, *Kelly & Cal*, and *She's Funny That Way*; and

WHEREAS, Cybill Shepherd has starred in three television series, *The Yellow Rose*, *Moonlighting*, for which she won two Golden Globes and scored an Emmy nomination, and her self-titled show *Cybill*, which she also executive produced and for which she earned another Golden Globe, three Emmy nominations, and a SAG Award nomination; in addition, she co-starred on the television series *The Client List*, played the lead role in several television movies, and made guest appearances on numerous television shows; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Ms. Shepherd made her Broadway debut in the revival of *The Best Man*, and in 2008, she starred in the one-woman show *Curvy Widow*; and

WHEREAS, after singing with her church choir at age eight and studying voice at sixteen, she recorded eleven albums, blending rock, blues, ballads, and standards with her own compositions, and has performed sold-out concerts around the world; and

WHEREAS, Cybill Shepherd recorded *Vanilla* in Memphis; many outstanding Memphis musicians were featured on the album, which was a bright spot in the "Lost Decade of Memphis Music"; and

WHEREAS, after moving back home to Memphis in 1978, Cybill Shepherd began working on behalf of the city's Orpheum as community activists fought for the theatre's survival; through their collective efforts, the Orpheum became the economic engine for the rebirth of downtown Memphis and is now one of the premiere entertainment destinations in the Mid-South; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shepherd was the headliner for the theatre's fiftieth anniversary celebration and served as spokesperson for the corresponding Orpheum or Asphalt campaign, one of the most successful arts-related fundraising campaigns in Memphis history; and

WHEREAS, she is presently working to recapture and share the lost history of the Orpheum's first four years and assisting in preparations for the celebration of the theatre's ninetieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, on her homecoming, Cybill Shepherd helped pioneer residential life in downtown Memphis and later built her home on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River; her passion and advocacy for downtown Memphis and the restoration of the Orpheum Theatre were instrumental in reviving the heart of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shepherd chose to have her first child at The Med, which sent a persuasive message to the community that this publicly funded hospital offered superlative care; she also appeared in an advertising campaign to publicize the excellent care available to all at The Med; and

WHEREAS, Cybill Shepherd provided financial support and participated in the opening of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2018, Indie Memphis, The Orpheum Group, and the Memphis and Shelby County Film and Television Commission are presenting "Celebrating Cybill" to honor Ms. Shepherd upon her many artistic achievements and thank her for unwavering affection and support of her hometown by screening two of her films, *Rose* and *Memphis*, at the Halloran Centre; and

WHEREAS, the latter film is an especially cogent selection as Cybill Shepherd co-produced and co-wrote *Memphis* to spotlight her hometown and portray the struggle for civil rights against a backdrop of historic sites; and

WHEREAS, as Cybill Shepherd once again experiences the warmth, affection, and appreciation of her fellow Memphians, it is only fitting that we should likewise offer our gratitude and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that on the special occasion of "Celebrating Cybill," we honor and recognize Cybill Shepherd upon her eclectic career in the arts and entertainment and thank her for her longstanding and ongoing commitment to making her native and present home of Memphis an even better place to live.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.